

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1                   1.     A method for displaying connection information in a network topology  
2     display, the method using a system including a processor coupled to a display screen, the  
3     method comprising  
4                   obtaining connection information about a first node interconnected  
5     with a second node;  
6                   displaying the first node on the display screen;  
7                   displaying the second node on the display screen;  
8                   if there is a single connection between the nodes then displaying a first  
9     connection endpoint symbol on the display screen adjacent to both the first and second nodes;  
10                  if there are multiple connections between the nodes then displaying a  
11     second connection endpoint symbol on the display screen adjacent to both the first and  
12     second nodes; and  
13                  displaying a connector between the endpoint symbols.
- 1                   2.     The method of claim 1, wherein the first connection endpoint symbol  
2     comprises line end segments, wherein a first line end segment is adjacent to the first node and  
3     a second line end segment is adjacent to the second node.
- 1                   3.     The method of claim 2, wherein the second endpoint symbol comprises  
2     a graphical symbol to indicate the existence of multiple connections.
- 1                   4.     The method of claim 3, wherein the second endpoint symbol includes a  
2     two-pronged fork.
- 1                   5.     The method of claim 3, wherein the first and second termination  
2     symbols are the same.
- 1                   6.     The method of claim 3, wherein the first and second termination  
2     symbols are different.
- 1                   7.     The method of claim 1, wherein one or more of the connection  
2     endpoint symbols includes a numeric indication of the number of connections.
- 1                   8.     The method of claim 1, the computer system further comprising a user  
2     input device, the method further comprising

3                    accepting a signal from the user input device to indicate that the user  
4   has selected the second connection endpoint type displayed on the display screen; and  
5                    displaying an indication of the number of connections represented by  
6   the selected second connection endpoint type.

1                    9.        The method of claim 7, wherein the step of displaying an indication  
2   includes a substep of  
3                    displaying a text description of the number of connections.

1                    10.       The method of claim 8, wherein the text is displayed in a pop-up box.

1                    11.       The method of claim 1, wherein the multiple connections include  
2   redundant connections.

1                    12.       The method of claim 1, wherein the multiple connections include  
2   separate channels.

1                    13.       The method of claim 1, wherein the multiple connections include  
2   discrete physical connections.

1

1                   14.    An apparatus for displaying connection information, the apparatus  
2 comprising  
3                   a processor coupled to a display screen;  
4                   a data source coupled to the processor for providing connection  
5 information about a first node interconnected with a second node;  
6                   one or more node display processes for displaying the first and second  
7 nodes on the display screen;  
8                   one or more connection display processes for displaying a first  
9 connection endpoint symbol on the display screen adjacent to both the first and second nodes  
10 if there is a single connection between the nodes, and for displaying a second connection  
11 endpoint symbol on the display screen adjacent to both the first and second nodes if there are  
12 more than one connections between the nodes.

1

1                   15.    A computer-readable medium including instructions for execution in a  
2    system including a processor coupled to a display screen, the instructions comprising  
3                   obtaining connection information about a first node interconnected  
4    with a second node;  
5                   displaying the first node on the display screen;  
6                   displaying the second node on the display screen;  
7                   if there is a single connection between the nodes then performing the  
8    step of displaying a first connection endpoint symbol on the display screen adjacent to both  
9    the first and second nodes;  
10                  if there are multiple connections between the nodes then performing  
11    the step of displaying a second connection endpoint symbol on the display screen adjacent to  
12    both the first and second nodes.  
13

13

1           16.    A method for displaying connection information in a network topology  
2 display, the method using a system including a processor coupled to a display screen and user  
3 input device, the method comprising the following steps performed by the processor  
4           displaying a connection between first and second nodes on the display screen,  
5 wherein the displayed connection corresponds to multiple connections between the nodes;  
6           accepting signals from the user input device to indicate that the user has  
7 selected the connection; and  
8           in response to the step of accepting signals, performing the step of displaying  
9 additional information about the connection on the display screen.

1           17.    The method of claim 15, wherein the step of displaying additional  
2 information includes substep of  
3           displaying a number indicating the number of connections between the  
4 nodes.

1           18.    The method of claim 15, wherein the user input device is used to  
2 control the position of a pointer displayed on the screen, wherein the step of accepting signals  
3 includes the substep of  
4           determining that the pointer has been moved near the connection.  
5

5

1           19.    A computer readable medium including instructions for execution in a  
2    system including a processor coupled to a display screen, the instructions comprising  
3           displaying a connection between first and second nodes on the display screen,  
4    wherein the displayed connection corresponds to multiple connections between the nodes;  
5           accepting signals from the user input device to indicate that the user has  
6    selected the connection; and  
7           in response to the step of accepting signals, performing the step of displaying  
8    additional information about the connection on the display screen.